

Habitats and Breeding Seasons of the Shelf Limpet

Crepidula norrisiarum WILLIAMSON

BY

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(Plate 6)

DURING THE COURSE of some investigations of marine invertebrates in the vicinity of Corona Del Mar, California, and off Point Mugu, California, as well as the offshore islands, observations were incidentally made on the habitats and breeding seasons of *Crepidula norrisiarum* WILLIAMSON, 1905. These observations were made between 1948 and 1963. Some of the information obtained is listed in the table below. The earlier investigations were made from the Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, the later from the U. S. Naval Missile Center at Point Mugu, California. In the work at Point Mugu, we are indebted to SCUBA divers Billy Scronce and Martin Conboy (USN), who brought in the specimens from Locations 2 and 3.

The records given in the table below indicate that

Crepidula norrisiarum breeds throughout the year. Of the individuals examined, none that were 25 mm or less in length were found brooding eggs. Of the thirteen individuals on one *Norrisia*, the males averaged 14.1 mm in length, the females 25.0 mm. Tiny, solitary individuals are often found on the same host with the large ones that are paired. Are these potential males for the females that will develop from the current males?

We believe that several new habitats are given and that ten and thirteen individuals per host are rather unusual. That *Crepidula norrisiarum* was found on *Randallia*, a crab that inhabits smooth, open bottom, shows that the limpet is not necessarily confined to a rocky habitat.

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Habitats and Breeding Seasons of *Crepidula norrisiarum* WILLIAMSON

Month	No. of Individuals	Size in mm	No. Brooding Individuals	No. Capsules	Eggs or larvae per Capsule (Ave.)	Habitat	Location
Jan.	5		1	20	26 larvae	1 <i>Norrisia</i>	1
Feb.	4	1.7 - 2.8	0			3 <i>Mitrella carinata</i>	2
	1	3.8	0			1 <i>Nassarius cooperi</i>	2
	13	4.1 - 28.3	3	24 - 35	24 - eggs, larvae	1 <i>Norrisia</i>	2
	10	4.0 - 34.0	1			1 <i>Norrisia</i>	2
April	8		?			3 <i>Randallia bulligera</i> (crab)	1
	2		1	(larvae with 1.1 mm shells)		1 <i>Norrisia</i>	1
June	2		1	19	15 - 30 larvae ¹	1 <i>Norrisia</i>	1
Oct.	2	21, 28	1		eggs	2 <i>Norrisia</i>	3

Location 1: Off Corona Del Mar, California, from 20 to 50 feet deep.

Location 2: 3½ mi. south of Mugu Rock, near Point Mugu, California, 30 feet deep.

Location 3: Off Anacapa Island, California, 100 yards out from Cat Rock, 55 to 60 feet deep.

¹ With the exception of a very few in the center of a capsule, all the larvae were oriented so that the foot was placed against the wall of the capsule.